The Point

Issue #4
Week of October 11, 2000

Letters From the Editor

Can I get a little service over here?

I spent some time losing my mind recently, a by-product of that most reprehensible of human activities: moving. I had to get out of my old place due to the end of a long-term relationship. So in addition to disentangling myself from a girlfriend with the same type of creepy obsessiveness as Charles Whitman polishing his gun so I could be dropped pink and mewling back into the dating pool, I had to deal with hell from various utility companies that would make Ghandi want to start knocking skulls.

If I think about it, I could go on about the way the moving company broke a table, lost one of my bags and tried to screw me out of another hour's time for five minutes of work (at $200 an hour). The table was a piece of crap but my stereo fit on it perfectly, so its loss will be felt. As for the bag...I figured the best way to insure all those important papers one needs (including my new lease) were easily at hand would be to place them in a bag with the things I use everyday. This, of course, was the bag that got lost. So for two days I was without soap, shaving cream or shampoo. Luckily, I was able to borrow a bar of soap from my roommate who already thought it odd that I didn't have a bed...Oh, didn't I explain that.

Now I don't want to complain, but in my personal opinion, J C Penny sucks. To wit: after having been told that even large furniture items take only 3-4 business days to deliver, I delayed my order (a bed, a vacuum and an office chair) until a day before my move date so as to have it delivered to the proper address. I then spent the next three weeks calling and being told that whoever told me that delivery time was wrong. It takes 10 business days and because it was furniture and had to be delivered by a subsidiary company, that company also had 10 additional business days to contact me and set up a delivery date.

They finally called, but they only sent a truck to Fitchburg on Wednesday and the next one available was two weeks later. Needless to say I refused to spend another two weeks sleeping on a couch so people were talked to, argued with and finally bitched at and the truck was scheduled for the next day.

I took the day off work and the truck arrived. Unloading took about six minutes and seemed anticlimactic...until I start setting up. Everything I ordered was screwed up in some small but important way. There was a big hole in the boxspring, the on/off switch pressed loosely into the vacuum without accomplishing anything; and (my personal favorite) the plate to attach the arms to the chair were a full ½ inch from where the holes for it were drilled.

After all the drama and run-around with regulations, after being told that I could not change the status of my delivery because "once the order is in processing it is untouchable," after having some skank hoodrat talk to me like I'm an idiot because SHE doesn't understand the question I'm asking, everything had to be returned. It just leads me to wonder whatever happened to customer service?

I have friends who work in tech support who have wasted hours doing complicated research on why a particular moron cannot get his new software to work, only to discover they are putting the CD in upside-down. I have a friend who works in a bank and actually had to explain to someone why the bank cannot take a check that was just faxed over as payment on a loan. Now with all this idiocy among the populous, there is little surprise that there is a surplus of stupidity among the drones across the counter.

Absolutely true story: A friend of mine went to Taco Bell (because for some horrible unfathomable reason she actually likes it) and got a dozen tacos. On her way out to the car she discovers she only has ten in the bag. She returns and informs the vapid gum-chewing polyestron behind the counter of the error and is promptly told "Ten is a dozen."

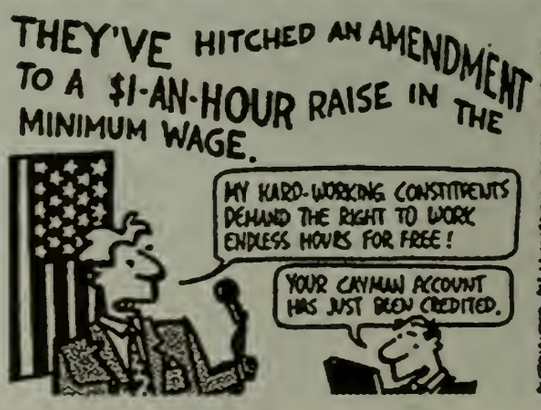
Now this is pure stupidity, but frequently, the drone in question is subject to restrictions and procedures in the way a business is run, particularly among chains and franchises. This "three ring binder mentality" typically leads to doublethink which would make the editors of The New York Times envious. For instance, if a bank makes an error entering your name in their records, they cannot correct it unless they receive written permission from you authorizing the change. Why? Because they get audited like you would not believe. At least at the local level, I'm sure Wells Fargo, Sovereign and Chemical Banks can do whatever they please. (Remember when ATMs were free?)

These nonsensical rules and regulations are in place for one of two reasons; either they are there to protect the business in question from lawsuits (when working tech support you are absolutely forbidden from assisting with or even commenting on another company's software) or because there is still a security measure in place first developed in the latter half of the 19th century when everything was done on paper and identification consisted of a scrawled letter of introduction from the Earl of Bumthwack.

That being said, I would like to address said drones: I'm sorry if your spin on the employmentwheel of fortune came up a crapper and you now spend your day stuffing the smelly sweat sock covered feet of lady boxers, yuppie joggers and subteen posers into shoes three sizes too small at the local Foot Locker, but can we please have a little less attitude all the way around?

If you're working in a job that you hate simply because you need to make that next payment on your [insert trendy youth-marketed car here], sell the damned thing, buy a Yugo and use the extra cash to make something of yourself. "You don't have to stay anywhere forever." And to all you customers, members, clients and just general assholes: just because you have an urgent need for perfection that would get on Felix Unger's nerves, doesn't mean the waiter, server, or sales rep can read your mind. (Let's face it most of the time they can barely read a book). Additionally, they are not your friends. They may be friendly, but are being paid to be so. They do not care about you. Your waiter doesn't need to know your medical history (including 8x10's of your last colonoscopy) to know that you can't eat dairy. Just tell him and both of you can get on with your lives.

Continued on page 8



RUTH BUTLER AWARD

Ruth Butler Achievement Grant applications are now available from the Grant center.

These awards are given in honor of the late Professor Ruth Butler, of the Mathematics Department. Grants are awarded to promote professional activities, artistic development or other activities that are appropriate to furthering the goals of Fitchburg State College.

Grants are typically awarded to full-time members of the faculty, administration and student body; however, if the grants used are less than the funds available, then part-timers become considered for grants.

Applicants must submit a completed application form together with a resume or *curriculum vita* to the Grant Center by 4:00 PM Friday, October 20, 2000. Applications can be obtained from the Grant Center, located in Room 115 of Thompson Hall, or from their website, www.fsc.edu/grantctr/ruth_butler.html.

Questions regarding the grants may be directed to Nancy M. Levy at the Grant Center, 978 665 3712.

F Y I AA meetings are held every Tuesday at the Newman Center at 7PM

Hot topics up for discussion at Fitchburg State

Ross Gelbspan, one of the nation's most highly regarded commentators on global climate, will give a talk at Fitchburg State College on October 17 at 3:30 PM in the Kent Recital Hall of the Conlon Building.

Gelbspan's book, *The Heat is On: The Climate Crisis, the Cover-up and the Prescription*, is being taught to freshman as part of the Freshman Foundation year program on global warming.

Gelbspan retired several years ago after a 31-year career in journalism as a reporter and editor at *The Philidelphia Bulletin, The Bosotn Globe* and *The Washington Post*. As a special projects editor at the *Globe*, he concieved , directed and editoed a series of articles that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1984.

In 1995, he co-authored an article on climate change adn the sprtead of infectious disease which appeared in the Outlook section of *The Washington Post*. His article on climate change which appeared on the cover of December 1995 issue of *Harper's Magazine* was a finalist for the National Magazine Award.

In 1997, he published the current textbook. The book recieved positive reviews from sources as diverse as *The New York Times* and *Nature* magazine. It recieved national attention that summer when President Clinton told the press he was reading it.

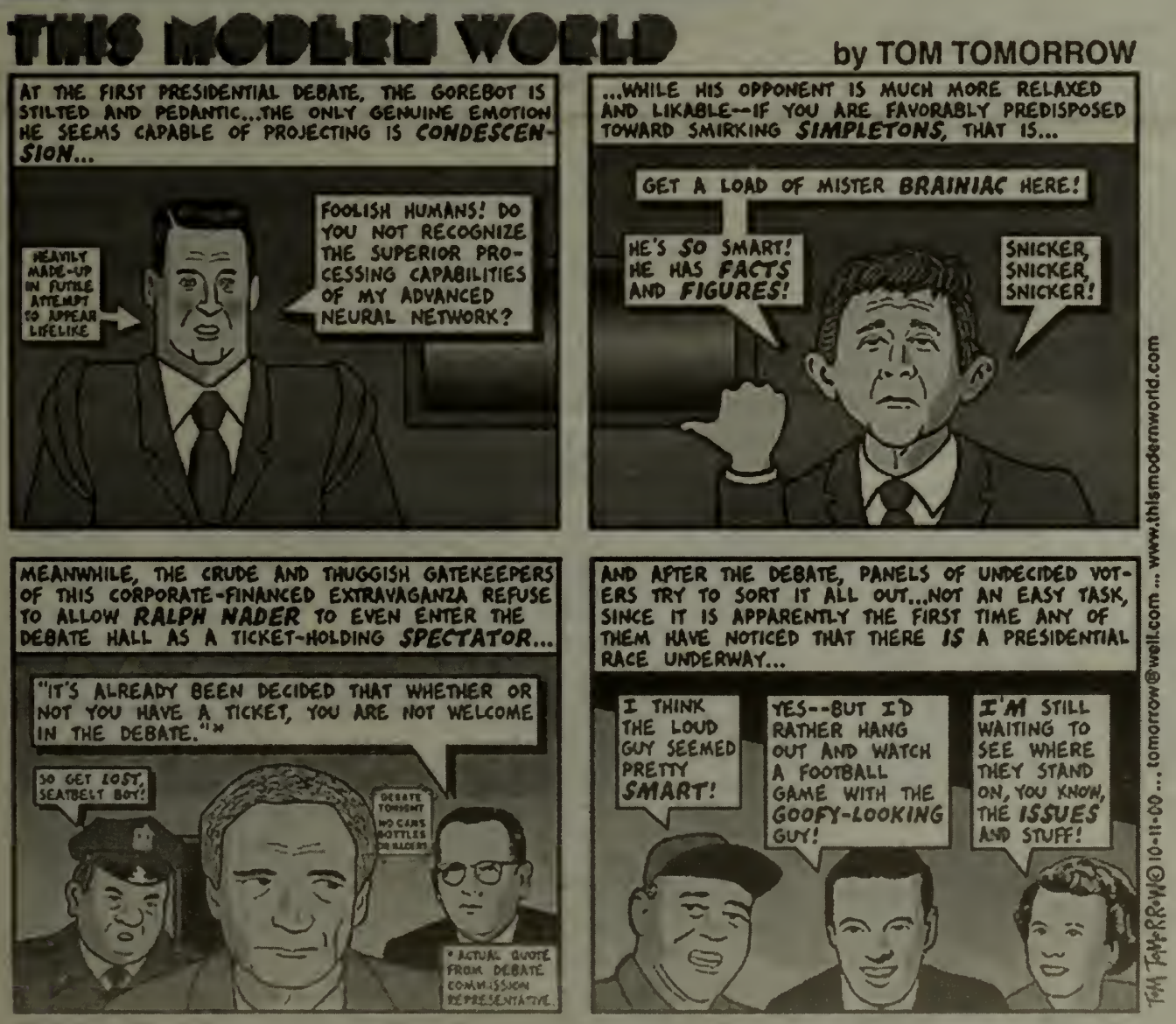
A website is available to update information in the book; www.heatisonline.org. It was recently rated the best climate-related site by the Pacific Institute.

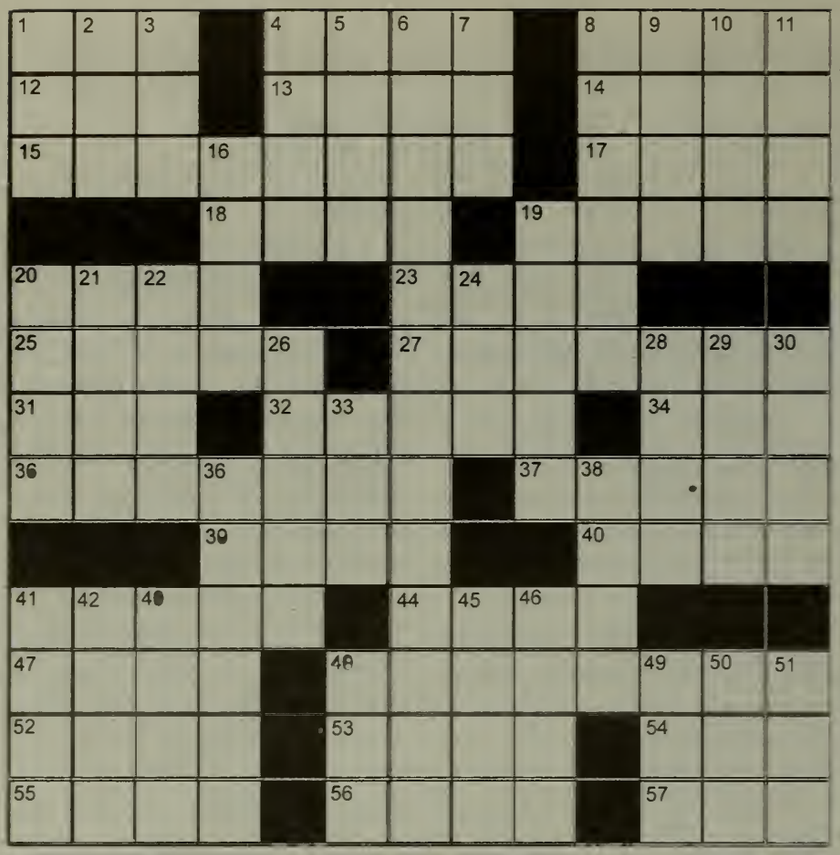
in the summer of 1998, Gelbspan and colleague Paul Epstein assembled a group of economists, energy company presidents and policy specialists to hammer out a set of strategies designed to dramatically accelerate the Kyoto process.

They were invited to present those strategies at a conference in Buenos Aires last Novenmber. As a result of that presentation, the United Nations Development Programme invited them to mount a conference of those strategies in Bonn, Germany.

Since the book's publication, Gelbspan has also been invited to the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, where he addressed government minister and leaders of multi-national corporations.

In 1998, he published "A Good Climate for Investment" in The Atlantic Monthly.





ACROSS

1. Explode
4. Injection
8. Cuts clover for forage
12. Keep an ___ to the ground
13. Cone source
14. Orchestra member
15. Equatorial
17. Gull's kin
18. Writing liquids
19. Totted
20. Front of the leg
23. Role model
25. Cartoon pig
27. Lasagna seasoning
31. Question
32. Met performance
34. Jump up and down
35. Dwells
37. Cursed
39. House position
40. Chapel song
41. Whiff
44. Principle
47. Volcanic emission
48. Winemaker's farm
52. Similar
53. Comes to a close
54. Couple
55. Sculpt
56. Id's companions
57. Nice summer?

DOWN

1. Animal companion
2. Rower's necessity
3. Tennis instructor
4. Washer cycle
5. Rube
6. With little capital
7. ___ Aviv
8. Ball-game food
9. Tucked in
10. Ancient times
11. Dispatch
16. In the ____ (healthy)
19. Enclosures
20. Sail pole
21. Fireman's item
22. Annoys
24. Make a misstep
26. Alpine tune
28. Nautical greeting
29. Average
30. Begin
33. Black-eyed ___
36. Tahiti or Hawaii
38. Curds and ___
41. Hit hard
42. Shark variety
43. See no ____
45. Take apart
46. Minus
48. Type of neckline
49. Orange drink
50. Fixed habit
51. Fawn's mom

Solution is on back cover

Does you write goodly?

The student newspaper is currently looking for student writers, editors and photographers for staff positions.

Any interested students are encouraged to drop by the office anytime, or attend our weekly meeting on Thursdays at 11:30.

Please feel free to contact our office at x3647 or email us at point@fsc.edu.

The Point

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

The Point is the student news source of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to *The Point* becomes the property of *The Point*.

TRUE CRIME...TRUE CRIME...TRUE CRIME...TRUE CRIME

GOD IS MY CO-PILOT

A convoy of seven catholic bishops was pulled over by police for speeding in Umbria, Italy. Their speed at times exceeded 135 kph (86 mph) through school and hospital zones. The bishops explained they were trying to avoid being late to a speech by a cardinal.

U-G-L-Y...YOU AIN'T GOT NO ALIBI

Police in Annapolis, MD are looking for several very ugly women. The group of thieves, who are "very unattractive and obviously male," according to police detectives, wear skin-tight skirts and high heels. The distraction they cause allows accomplices to steal money, checks and credit cards from stores. "They look kind of silly when they dress up, but they're good at what they do," detectives added.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

A bodyguard for Queen Elizabeth was relieved from duty recently after discharging his weapon into the floor of the train in which the Queen was traveling. No one was injured in the accident which palace spokesmen have explained as enthusiasm on the part of the guard who had dropped his gun after drawing it rapidly in response to what he thought were gunshots. The reports were in fact his fellow bodyguard breaking wind.

QUICK RESPONSE

Michael Amos reported to Little Rock, AK police that his young daughter was asleep in the back of his car when it was stolen. Police found the car within two hours and when explaining to Amos that no trace of his daughter was found, learned that he actually has no daughter. He lied to police so they would work harder to find the car.

IT'S CALLED A GETAWAY CAR FOR A REASON

Brothers Lawrence and Malcolm Dame were easily apprehended after robbing a bar in Syracuse, NY of over $100. Police arrived on the scene within a few minutes and discovered the pair sitting in their car in front of the bar counting the money.

FOUL BALL

Pennsylvania state police charged Shawn Phillips, himself a part time officer, with paying a 10-year-old Little League pitcher $2 to hit another player with a pitch. The boy who was hit had to leave the game. After the incident, the pitcher told his parents about the payoff. When confronted, Phillips confessed to the bribe bu, tunrelated to anyone on either team, could offer no motive.

TO PROTECT, TO SERVE

Bryan McClendon, a sherif's deputy in Jefferson Parish, LA, stopped a heart attack victim being driven to the hospital, then mocked the man and his family while issuing a ticket for running a red light. Even though the man was in obvious pain and the family begged him to let them proceed, McClendon issued the ticket after delaying them for over 30 minutes. Heading back to his car, the officer said, "Y'all go ahead now and have your heart attack or stroke or whatever. Have a good day."

FLOSS DAILY

Convicted murderer Vincenzo Curcio escaped from a high security prison in Turin, Italy by sawing through the bars of his cell window using dental floss. Authorities report that the bars were made from ductile steel, which contains no carbon and is softer than regular steel. The bars were part of a safety system used in the construction of the prison to withstand terrorist assaults from outside the prison.

Curico took under a week to saw through the bars and lower himself to the ground on a rope of bedsheets. He was spotted climbing over the fence, but the guard was unable to sound the alarm as it was being repaired at the time. Curcio is still at large.

AIDING AND A BEDDING

James Springette, an American being held in a maximum security prison in Bogota, Columbia, escaped by requesting a new mattress and wrapping himself in the old one when it was carried away.

FASHION VICTIM

When T'Chacka Mshinda Thorpe tried to flee from police in Lynchburg, VA, his baggy pants fell to his ankles making him trip and break his leg. After easily catching up to him, police found a bag of cocaine in his pocket.

SILLY GOOSE

After less than a decade, Thomas Kragh governor of Berga prison in Helsingborg, Sweden admitted the experiment was a failure.

Twenty-three geese were brought in to act as guards for the prison in 1992. Known for their nasty temperament the birds were used primarily to prevent escapes. Authorities of the prison recently noticed a shifting in the birds' loyalty; they would sound an alarm whenever guards approached, but let over a dozen inmates escape "without making a sound."

Kragh feels that putting the inmates in charge of feeding the birds may have been a mistake.

MAYBE HE WAS AN INTERN

Jose Casanova told Philly police that the drug bosses who paid him $500 to shoot and kill John Hernandez Cruz sent him back to the abandoned house where the body was and bury it in the basement. Two days later, they sent him back in order to "set the old place on fire." Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze without discovering the body.

Again Casanova was ordered to the house and told to "take John's body out of the house, put it in a car and burn it." This he did, using the car he had stolen and left in the driveway of the house. Police called to the scene recognized Casanova from the previous fire and brought him in where he confessed.

Besides receiving no additional money for the extra work, Casanova must now stand trial for arson and abuse of a corpse as well as murder.

DeZarn takes the stage

By Kathleen Coughlin

On Sunday October 15, Teresa DeZarn, Broadway star of Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Showboat and The Secret Garden, will be performing at Fitchburg State to close out the 2000 AmeriCulture Arts Festival.

Accompanied by gifted free-lance pianist Rebecca Plummer (Boston Ballet Orchestra), DeZarn will be performing a variety of pieces from Broadway arias to lullabies. The talented vocalist uses her selections to tell a story of children, the theme of this year's festival. She follows a young couple through their first meeting, their courtship, and finally marriage and the joy of parenthood.

DeZarn is a true performer. Between her selections, she talks to the audience, inviting them to relate to the past experiences that prompted her to pick her pieces. Her easy-going nature lets the audience feel they have a relationship with her, and are not just passively listening to the songs. People are asked to really think about what they mean to the songwriter, to Teresa, and to themselves.

Even with this inviting, less-than-formal atmosphere, DeZarn still presents herself professionally. Her music is delivered with confidence. Plummer and DeZarn had just a few days to prepare before the opening concert on September 18th, yet they sounded like they had been performing together for years. They had a terrific chemistry and knew musically where the other person was at all times.

Teresa DeZarn as Christine in the Tronto production of "Phantom of the Opera"

Interestingly enough, DeZarn has not been performing for the past two years so as to raise her son. She was invited to return to the stage for the opening and closing of AmeriCulture's third season this year by Kelly Morgan, a personal friend and artistic director of the festival.

Teresa DeZarn will perform October 15 at 7:30pm in Kent Recital Hall, Conlon Music Building at Fitchburg State. Tickets are $5 for students, $7 for general admission.

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'Henry Hikes to Fitchburg' a hit with students

by D.B. Johnson

"One summer day, Henry and his friend decided to go to Fitchburg. . . 'I'll walk,' said Henry... 'I'll work,' Henry's friend said."

Inspired by a well-known portion of Henry David Thoreau's Walden, D.B. Johnson uses this line to begin a book of his own *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*. This is Johnson's first children's book, and is featured as part of Fitchburg State College's AmeriCulture Arts Festival.

The book fit in well with the festival's theme of Generations: The Influence of Children, as well as having the Fitchburg connection, Johnson said.

Johnson, a long-time admirer of Thoreau, wished to write and illustrate a children's story that showed the benefits of a simpler lifestyle.

"Kids need to know this more than adults," he said, adding that there is so much pressure on children to be like everyone else, to have lots of things. Johnson wanted to encourage children to enjoy nature and take walks in the woods.

Henry and his friend, the main characters in the book, are bears who each choose a different way to get to Fitchburg, 30 miles away. Henry chooses to walk; his friend decides to work and earn the money to take the train.

Johnson used bears to make the story more appealing to children, he said, and to avoid giving the story a judgmental quality.

Because, according to Johnson, most children's books are bought by adults who enjoy them, his illustrations are designed to appeal to both children and adults. The playful pictures convey messages that might be overlooked by children, but valued by the adults reading to them.

One page shows Henry's friend pulling weeds, while Henry picks the same type of plants and flowers, pressing them in a book. Another time Henry's friend is carrying water to the cows while Henry is being carried by the water on a raft.

Johnson said that his book was purposely written in a light-hearted way to keep it fun while encouraging people to "get off the materialistic bandwagon," to look at and appreciate nature.

A free-lance illustrator for over 20 years, Johnson understands that technology "cuts both ways." Although it is commonly associated with the modern, fast-paced life, technology also allows writers and illustrators such as himself to live in remote parts of the country yet still be in touch to practice their craft.

Johnson lives in New Hampshire in what he calls an "urban cabin." His three children have grown up and are well acquainted with the simpler lifestyle. All three are creative themselves; one daughter is an artist, and another daughter and son are writers.

As the children grew up, the family lived without a lot of things, Johnson said. We didn't take a lot of vacations, my kids never went to Disney World. Reading was a big theme in the family, he said.

Henry Hikes to Fitchburg has been on the Publisher's Weekly Bestseller List and the New York Times Children's Bestseller List, in addition to winning the 2000 Boston Globe Horn Book Award. It is currently in its fifth printing after selling well over 50,000 since its publication last May.

Johnson's next book, Henry Builds a Cabin, explores the meaning of shelter, and is due out in 2002.

A mother's views seen at Fitchburg

By Joanna Jackson

Susan Wadsworth
Childscapes: A Mother's View
Mocha Alley, 12 Mill St., Fitchburg
Sept 18-Oct 21

"It's all about attitude."

This is the theme behind Susan Wadsworth art work, entitled "Childscapes: A Mother's View," which is on display as a part of Fitchburg State College's AmeriCulture Arts Festival.

Wadsworth, a local artist and professor at FSC, started working on these pieces last November after a friend's encouragement gave her the wherewithall to record the moments of motherhood. She was challenged to figure out how to show the preciousness of holding a baby, she said, and how to show the feeling of kissing a baby.

Although she loves the toddler stage, it was only after the birth of her third child, Sarah, that Wadsworth was able to overlook the details that make motherhood a job, and focus on the preciousness of each moment with her children.

Confirming the prediction by one of her college professors that "when she knew what she wanted to say, she would be able to say it," Wadsworth's pictures are all done from a mother's point of view. Rather than showing an outsider looking in, she uses views that mothers see so often.

"Nursing takes a lot of time. All you can see is your breast and the child," Wadsworth said. "I love looking down on my kids' heads. I love touching them, kissing them."

There are times she gets tired and upset, she said, but she has chosen to focus on the positive. Her pieces all show a good frame of mind. "I can go around bitter, saying life is unfair at times." Instead she realizes that it is a joy to be able to do things like tuck her children into bed at night, and wants to share this feeling through her art.

Using soft curves, and layering with pastels, the portraits depict scenes of pregnancy, birth, infancy and toddlerhood.

People are reacting in a very positive way to her pictures, Wadsworth said. Some have been moved to tears. The appeal of her art lies in the fact that the pictures portray a view that mothers are familiar with, Wadsworth said.

There are no detailed faces in the pictures. "I'm not interested in perfect anatomy," Wadsworth said. "I'm interested in feelings." She purposely created the pictures this way, she said, so that people could look at them and be thrilled to see their own kids.

One picture, entitled "Siblings III: Colds and Bills," is a mother's view of a baby sitting in her lap, with one of the mother's arms holding a toddler, while the other hand is busy writing out bills. "I'm a working mom. Often when nursing, I am correcting papers. I grab every five minutes I can," Wadsworth said.

"In art, toddlers are usually depicted as angels or devils," she said. Instead, she shows toddlers as she sees them - with their awkwardness and struggles for independence.

She often takes her children with her into her studio and lets them play. "I can look at them, and go back and draw." Wadsworth uses moments like these, or works from memory because her children are too young to pose.

Wadsworth contacted Kelly Morgan, the organizer of the AmeriCulture Arts Festival, amazed at how perfectly her art fit with the festival's theme of Generations: The Influence of Children. Her artwork is displayed at Mocha Alley and Applewild School in Fitchburg.

She holds a Master of Fine Arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, and a Master of Art degree in art history from Tufts University in Massachusetts and teaches art history, criticism, and drawing and painting at FSC.

Dead Animals

Fitchburg State College's independent film series continues with a screening of *Gates of Heaven* on Thursday, October 19 at 7PM in the Ellis White Lecture Hall, located off of G-Lobby in the Hammond Building.

Filmmaker Errol Morris' debut feature follows pet owners as their loved ones are exhumed from the Foothills Memorial Gardens pet cemetary which is being moved to make way for project housing. Captured in his definitive deadpan technique, Morris' characters ramble on about the "American soul," life. love, death and other topics ecentric yet universal.

A short student film *E2K - Earthquake 2000*, by Brandy Sales and Jeff Ruscio will be presented before the feature. Jeffery Warmouth, assistant profesor of Communications/Media, will lead a discusion after the films.

Admission is $5 for the general public and $3 for students. For more imformation call 978 665 3709 or 978 665 3347.

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Radiohead: Not kidding around

by Jesse Tully

British rock superstars Radiohead have done it again. After the success of their third album, 1997's critically acclaimed *OK Computer*, who would have thought they could top it? Well, they did. Their much anticipated follow-up, *Kid A*, was released in the US on October 3. In this reviewer's opinion, it was well worth the wait.

Kid A sounds nothing like any of Radiohead's previous endeavors. The group went almost completely electronic with this album. Apart from drums, the recognizable instruments are sparse. The closest the band comes to a traditional song is the somber "How to Disappear Completely," a mellow and drifting number which seems to be about someone who is in denial of everything going on around him. At the opposite end of the spectrum is "Treefingers," a song made up of droning keyboards which could send you of to dreamland before you know what hit you. The entire album is surreal and fantastic, right down to the artful packaging. Thom, Jon, Colin and Phil have put their collective genius to work to create a truly phenomenal record. A definite must-have.

Getting the business instead of the service

Continued from page 2

You know, in Japan there are stores where beautiful women will greet you as you enter, ask you what you are looking for and direct you to the proper area of the store. Now that's service. And sure it would be easy to complain that such service standards ought to be matched by stores in the US but let's face it, America is at heart a nation of crass poltroons.

However, for every corner cut and every short taken, the louts seem to forget that at a certain level they've relinquished the right to decent service. You want your food fast? Fine, but it will be shitty and greasy and handed to you through your car window by a pimply minimum wage slave who couldn't give a damn about you and thinks you should be thankful he didn't hawk a lunger into your shake. And you wanna know something? He's right...

It's a McDonald's, it's a Burger King, it's a Domino's, it's a Taco Bell, it's barely above the level at which a substance can be considered food. There is mealworm protein in the ground beef and the lettuce is so radioactive it glows in the dark and you are going to hassle the 16 year old Latina behind the counter who's mind may not be on her totally fascinating job as she is either worried about her scholarship application or whether or not she's pregnant just because you think the dollop of sour cream on your chalupa should be bigger. Shut the fuck up!

You're at the mall (idiot) and get all pissed off because the girl at the Gap giggled when you tried on a tech vest or whatever trendy piece of crap is being hyped these days and threaten to get her fired by complaining to her manager. So what? Worse comes to worse, she takes a walk to the other end of the mall and will be giggling at you when you shop the Old Navy next week.

The important thing is that as a polyestron or other service drone, you have a choice. If you don't like the way you are treated at a job, quit. Water will seek it's own level. If your boss is a flagellating butthead he will eventually only be able to hire those who can tolerate his bullshit antics. And remember he is only middle management, go over his head. If you can, come up with a list of serious grievances (the key word being serious, the complaint that you can't play your Orgy-CD at full volume is crap [based solely upon your obvious lack of taste alone], while at the other end of the spectrum if he [or she] is feeling you up out by the grease trap, that calls for legal action), and then wait until the District Manager or Field Rep (or whatever monkey suit your boss has to kiss up to) stops by for a friendly visit and slip the list to him. If it becomes known that he can't keep a solid staff together, he will be replaced. As a last resort, if there is enough percentage of you who walk off the job all at once, think of what a statement that will make.

The important thing is that as a consumer, you have a choice (at least for now). If you don't like the way you were treated by a store, don't go back. I've already cut up my Penny's card and took out a loan to pay the card off. Sure, I'll be paying a bit more in interest, but the finance charges will not be going to them. They will be losing money, however microscopic. You as a consumer must think of your self as a voter. You vote with your dollar. That's why when you see ads from groups who want you to not buy Kraft products because they support alcohol or not get Nabisco cookies as they are owned by RJR Tobacco, you should take a second look. Some of these groups, like Adbusters, have the right idea.

As it becomes more and more obvious that we as individuals have less and less power over the events that shape our lives, we have fewer options to let those in power know that we are displeased. The voting booth has become the token of democracy it was meant to be and politicians on both sides of the razorwire fence which separates the national ideological mindscape, are simply following the agenda of whoever has bought them for the season. We must go straight to the source of the influence and tell them no.

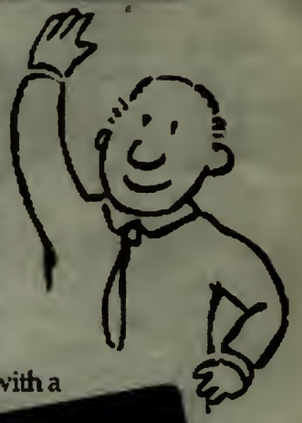
No! We will not put up with substandard service. No! We will not allow you to pay your workers shit wages so they (or we as the case may be) can feel under appreciated and then take it out on the customers. No! We will not allow ourselves to be figures on a ledger, to be hash marks on the bottom line, to be a part of some demographic pool or marketing strategy. We are people and it's time we as a people started making the corporate oligarchy realize that they need us far more than we need them.

James Sposato
Editor-in-Chief

Early Bird Specials!

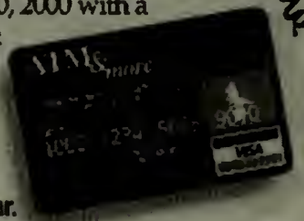
For Fitchburg State College Faculty & Staff only

Howdy, Neighbor!



Our brand new office at 65 North Street will be opening soon, but we're offering *you* a great pre-Grand Opening special!

Join Fitchburg ME by November 30, 2000 with a Direct Deposit account and enjoy:



- An automatic $10 deposit into your new account.
- FREE checking.
- FREE ATM & More Card.
- FREE checks for a whole year.
- FREE home banking at our web site.
- FREE on-line bill payment service for one year.
- *Early Bird Special CD:* 6 Months, 6.35% APY*

Minimum deposit: $25,000. *Effective 9/25/00. Rate subject to change.

Stop by, call, or visit us at www.fitchburgmefcu.com to join. Just $5 establishes full membership.

Fitchburg
ME Federal Credit Union

FITCHBURG STATE STUDENTS:

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COME TALK WITH US ABOUT OUR EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Package Handlers

EARN $8.50-$9.50/HOUR TO START • FULL BENEFITS!

ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE

GET UP TO $23,000 IN COLLEGE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE WITH THE UPS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM

• Paid Vacations & Holidays • Full Health Benefits
• 3-1/2 to 5 hours per day • Ask about our part-time management positions

COME IN EARLY, START THIS WEEK!

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Free Transportation for the Night Shift

OR APPLY IN PERSON AT THESE LOCATIONS:

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Every Thursday from 11AM - 1PM
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Possessed audience bedevils reviewer

by Allison Lahikainen

It began as it always does. The doors close, the lights dim, a hush falls over the audience. From the darkness, the shrill pangs of a piano call out. One of the classic horror films of all time has returned to the big screen to terrorize another generation, but this time it's not about the movie.

The quality of a movie can either be enhanced or destroyed by the its audience. The entire crowd can react together at appropriate moments or they can turn on each other in fits of bloodthirsty rage.

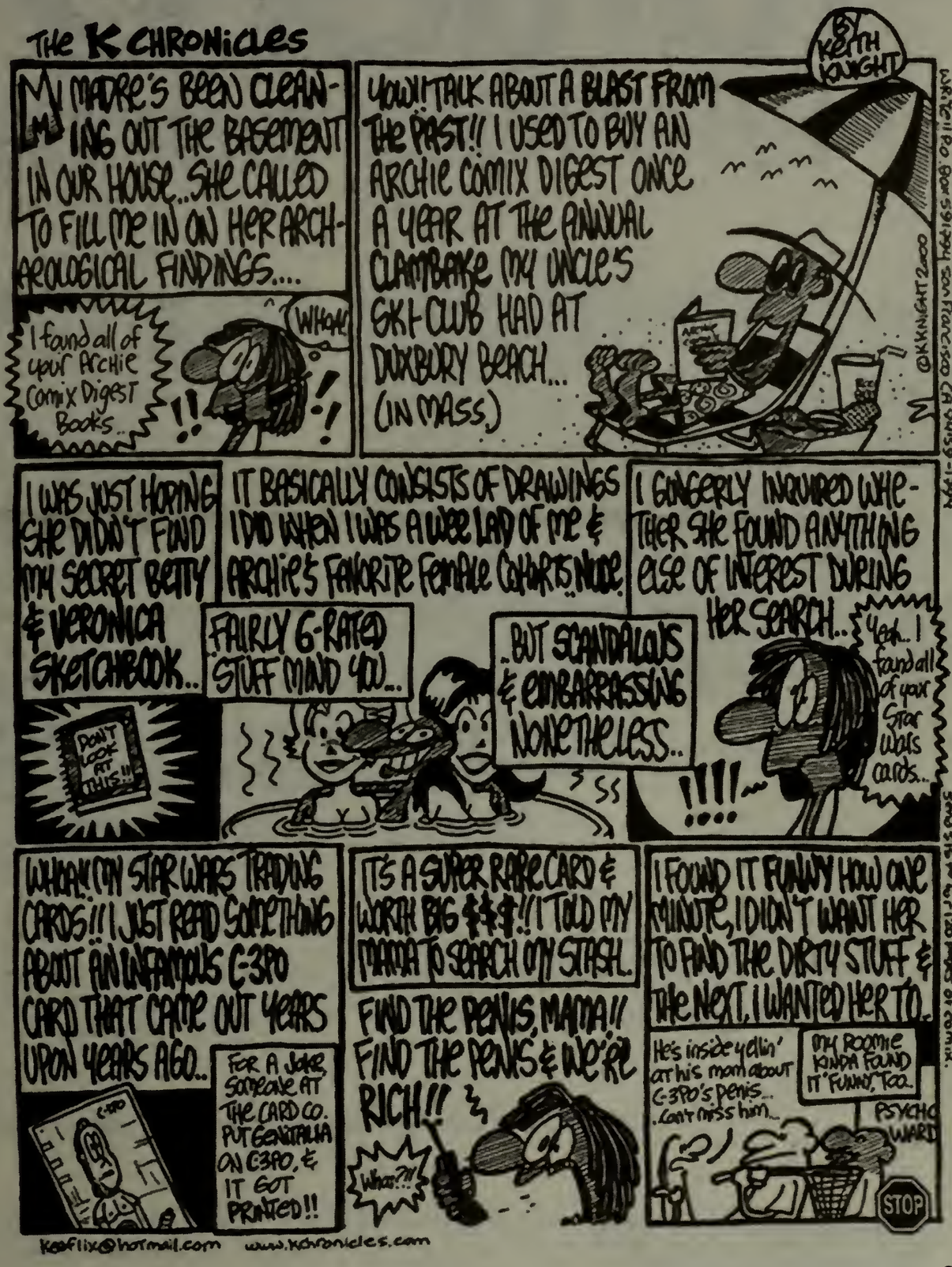
As the story of poor Regan unfolded, so did the whispers from the back row of the theater. Almost from the opening scene, giggles and conversation rolled over the audience; their boredom with the movie readily apparent. Strategically placed moments of silence in the movie, hoping to draw the audience in, only allowed for uncomfortable jostling in their seats. More "This is boring." whispers echoed of the walls. Of course, followed by a dramatic, but whispered "Shhh."

While the back row continued its disruption, a gentleman towards the front received a call on his cell phone. Did he turn off his phone and shrink down into his seat, sorry he had caused such a distraction?

No. He answered the call and launched into conversation about how he was at the movies watching The Exorcist. However, the patrolling shushers quickly got him and he hung up his call.

Finally, a few nerves in the audience broke and loud, profane verbal warnings were shot towards the back. Not to be outdone, the same loud and profane warning was immediately returned. The woman who spoke first stormed from her seat, mumbling about getting the kids in back thrown out. Much to everyone's relief, a few moments later, the police politely escorted the rabble from the theater.

The drama over with, the audience settled back in for the horrifying exorcism. The incident served to amuse everyone and brought uncomfortable laughter. Yet, every time a lull in the action occurred and attention spans waned, various whispers were taken up again. Only quieter.



Tuition Reimbursement...

Need we say more?

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Stop by for an immediate interview!

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CIRCUIT CITY

Wild Cards

Steven Beck

Along come yet another year's playoffs in Major League Baseball and yet all I can think is "Why the need for wild card teams?" Baseball isn't the only offender when it comes to letting teams that haven't really had the put forth the effort it is "supposed" to take to make it to the big show. Football, basketball, and soccer among others allow for this to happen. Why?

Owners are the reason why. When sports went professional, it became all about the money. For players to get involved in longer seasons is to shorten their careers by as many games as they have to play without attaining a championship. Adding extra teams to the playoffs into the mix gets to fill the ballpark a few extra times and make the money. It also in turn TV sets on. It is all about money, money, money.

Yes thanks to all the owners for keeping our best interest at heart by making the season longer by extending playoffs. Couldn't it be possible though that they just extend regular seasons so all can get the benefits of extra games? Can they please stop letting teams, all sports, into the playoffs that don't belong in. It might be all about money for an owner, but for the fan it is all about the sport. Don't force feed us sport because you would like to make that extra million to go on top of the ninety million you've already made this year.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 11

Filed Hockey with Franklin Pierce	**4 pm**

Thursday, October 12

Men's Soccer with Rivier	**3:30 pm**
Women's Soccer @ UMass-Boston	3:30 pm

Saturday, October 14

Football @ Maine Maritime	Noon
Men's Soccer @ Salem	1 pm
Women's Soccer with Salem	**Noon**
Field Hockey @ Bridgewater	Noon
Volleyball @ MCLA with Bridgewater	Noon
Cross Country @ New England All	TBA

Tuesday, October 17

Men's Soccer @ Framingham	4 pm
Women's Soccer with Framingham	**7 pm**
Field Hockey with Plymouth	**4 pm**

Pierce Update

Paul Pierce, the Celtics guard involved in a stabbing earlier this month, attended the opening of training camp last week. Only six days out of the hospital, Paul was not allowed to participate in any drills. Physicians want to make sure of Paul's breathing after the stabbing of his lung. Coach Pitino said that Pierce would be back in the workout room this week and if all goes well back on the court for light drills week after.

Wrasslin' : Blowin' Up Real Good

Steven Beck

Well I'm not quite sure I can call wrestling the most serious of sports. All the matches are decided before they start and even the Insane Clown Posse has been getting involved in some not so dramatic acting to which the end is always some one getting into a fake fight or ripping each other clothes off.

There is an up-side to the goings-on of the wrestling world. The athletes are humungous men, almost all cut like Mr. Universe. These giants, each and every week, try to come up with new ways of beating each other up for our entertainment. That to me makes it a sport not unlike boxing, the only difference being the win isn't always what important.

The figures of this sport are at thier height of popularity in the media these days. Its seems that every night of the week there is some wrestling show on television. One can't escape the hype for wrestling.

The WWF in recent weeks has moved from being a sports entertainer to being a sports enterprise. MTV, TNN, and UPN are now all carrying installments of the saga that is the WWF.

The WWF in the month of September started a drive to get their fans to vote in this year's election and has gotten 110,000 voters to register. The WWF is also taking the show on the road not just in the Untied States but is going to cross the Pacific Ocean to bring this Americanized version of wrestling to fans worldwide. This month's Playboy has the WWF's, "9th Wonder of the World," Chyna on its cover.

With all that, you can only expect the WWF's owner to be the man that is going to make extreme football a reality next February, the XFL.

I guess I should have listened to that e-mail from E-Trade last fall when it suggested I buy WWF. I might have never had to write another article.

Got Game?

If you are on an athletic team and are annoyed that The Point doesn't cover your games then you need to pick up a pen and write down what happened and tell us all about your glorious triumpf (or crushing defeat, we're not picky).

The Point would love to publish any information from our teams, but we need writers. Any one interested should contact us at x3647!

The Buc Stops Here

by Michael McGonigle

Saturday September 30 Fitchburg- With their arrival in town, the Buccaneers of Mass Maritime put their 3-0 record on the line against the Falcons football squad in a must win situation. Arguably turning in their best game of the 2000 campaign, the Falcons brought their A-game to Elliot field. With their 13-7 victory, the Falcons improved to 2-1 in the Bogan Division and 2-2 overall.

"We build our team around the defense," said coach Dave Flynn. With that in mind, the players stepped up to their weekly challenge. Currently ranked 12th in the nation against the run, the defense held the Bucs to a mere 47 yards on 31 attempts (1.5 yds. per carry). The defense stymied Bucs quarterback Joe O'Malley sacking him four times, and limiting his effectiveness to 182 yards passing as he finished with 14 completions on 32 attempts with one touchdown. If there was a game ball to be had, it would be given to sophomore linebacker Anthony Sterner who was all over the field making plays. Tallying seven tackles, six of them unassisted, two fumble recoveries and two sacks, Sterner was a key player in this game. Also playing great was sophomore defensive back Kevin Murray who had nine tackles total, seven unassisted and a recovered fumble. Jason Smith and Craig Levesque also put in notable performances with seven tackles each.

With the running game hampered with injuries, the Falcons put the ball in the air. Senior quarterback Nino DeCarolis played brilliantly, leading the offense with two passing touchdowns. According to coach Flynn, the signal caller showed character and poise as he played error free ball. By completing 15 of 21 passes for 171 yards DeCarolis showed he could handle the load. After a nice punt that placed the ball at their own 22 yard line, DeCarolis set out for a 78 yard scoring drive. It wasn't easy for the offense, which started the drive with two false starts and a missed block, placing the ball at their own 3 yard line. On third and 28, DeCarolis found a wide open Michael Haggerty for a 48 yard gain. On the tenth play of the drive, DeCarolis found Haggerty (7 rec. 109 yds.) open again, this time in the endzone.

"With time ticking down, the defense stepped up their game and iced the game"

With only 55 seconds left in the first half the Falcons were up 7-0.

Beginning the 4th quarter with a costly fumble, the Bucs left the ball for the Falcons on their own 36 yard line. Four plays later, the ball literally fell into the hands of Tanner Grove. After going up for a jump ball, the would be interception was bobbled by the defender and wound up in Groves lap for his 101st career reception. After senior kicker Joe Davolio hit his first extra point the second sailed wide right, and with the score 13-0 the Falcons were looking great.

Although down but not completely out, the Buccaneers fought back with an 11 play 74 yard drive of their own to mount a comeback late in the 4th quarter. With time ticking down, the defense stepped up their game and iced the game with a sack by Kevin Callahan ending the hopes of the Bucs.

Tired of *The Point*?

The current editorial staff has decided that with a new format, a new publisher and a new direction, the school paper of this "leadership college" could use a new name. Now this is not the editorial staff's paper, this is certainly not the administration's paper; it is your paper. So in fairness, we are going to have you decide the new name. If you think you know what this paper should be called, send it in on the entry below. We will cull the best five and in two weeks present them as a ballot. The name that gets the most votes becomes the new name of the paper. The originators of the five names on the ballot will receive a prize. The person who came up with the winning name gets an extra special mystery prize!

Hi. My name is _____ and I think The Point should change it's name to

_____

When I win, you can send my prize to campus mailbox # _____.

Answer to the crossword on page 4

P	O	P	■	S	H	O	T	■	H	A	Y	S
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P	O	R	K	Y	■	O	R	E	G	A	N	O
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L	A	V	A	■	V	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D
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M	O	L	D	■	E	G	O	S	■	E	T	E